A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, December 12. 1710

AND Now, Gentlemen, of all Parties, by what Names or Titles unhappily divided or diſtinguiſh'd, the Hour is at Hand, when your ſeveral Expectations, will one way or other come to an Iſſue——The great Aſſembly, in the Expectation of which there was ſo long Time ſpent, and Opinions paſt; and about the Time of the Choice of which, ſo much Diſorder has happned, is now Meeting; and I am glad the Hour is at laſt come: Shall I Examin a little, the variety of our Expectations, with which every Party are now pleaſing themſelves, as to the Proceedings of this preſent Parliament—And when I have done this, I'll Honeſtly tell you my own.

Every Party pleaſe themſelves with the ſeveral Ideas they have, of the Temper of the Houſe, the Aim and End of Parties, and the Iſſue of their Counſels: *The Furious* hope for Rigour and Puniſhment; *the Hot* for Revenge; *the Malicious* for Confuſion; *the Peaceable* for Calmneſs and Healing—*Honeſt Men* hope for Honeſt Proceedings, and I hope theſe Honeſt Men ſhall not yet be diſappointed; *but to come to Particulars.*

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The High Flyers, What should *High Flyers* wish for? Expect a *High Flying Parliament* —— I cannot wrong them in this, for I am not going to tell you what *I suppose* they severally hope for, that would be an Arrogance nothing could attone for; but I am speaking really what *their own Language is*, and what *they tell us* themselves, they look for.

Nor is it, I hope, any Reflection upon the Great Representative of the Nation, that Fools and Mad-men, expect Foolish and Mad Things from them —— The People of Old, because God did not Punish their Crimes, had Contemptible Ideas of their Maker, *and thought him just such a one as themselves*. Monstrous People, will have Monstrous Ideas, and draw Monstrous Conclusions —— *And so it will be here.*

1. *High Flyers* then, *as I said before*, hope for High Flying Work; nor is that Perjur'd Generation of Abjuring Jacobites, of whom I have said so much, and who are the People I call *High Flyers*, *asham'd to tell us*, that they hope for the Destruction of the *Whigs*, for the pulling to pieces the Revolution, disannulling the Protestant Succession, restoring Tyranny, and entalling Slavery —— They hope for a Sanction to the Doctrine of *Passive Obedience*, even in Cases of Tyranny and Oppression; a Recognition of the Queen's *Hereditary Right*, abstracted from, and in opposition to *Legal Provisions*, or *Parliamentary Limitation* —— And for a Declaration of the Duty of *Non-Resistance, on any pretence whatsoever*: Monstrous! That any Party can be so distracted, to expect these Things from a *British Parliament*; yet this, the Gentlemen who are call'd *High Flyers* tell the World openly they hope for, and depend upon.
2. *High Church-Men*, by whom I mean the Honest *Tory*, that I lately describ'd, who is really no *Jacobite*, but afraid of the Church, and implacable at the *Dissenters* —— These say they hope for an *Occasional Bill*, the Decease of the Act of Tolleration, shutting up the Meeting Houses, suppressing the private Academies of the *Dissenters*, Dr. *Sacheverell's Wholesome Severities*, and in short, reviving the Penal Laws, together with some other Things I care not to Name; which put together, make up that most Christian Doctrine of Persecution.
3. *Jacobites* expect —— *Shall I discover so much of their Folly?* —— A Parliamentary CALL to their Idol the Pretender; Wretched Absurdity! no Man could have thought them so blind, if it was not apparent that they have buoy'd up their Friends and their Interest with these Things, for a considerable time; nor should I have mention'd a Thing so Ridiculous, if I had not been an Eye-Witness to the Folly itself, in several Parts of this Kingdom, where they are not asham'd to own —— not that they expect it only, but that they expect it in Parliament.
4. *France expects* Discord, Confusion of Counsels, Inextricable Labyrinths about raising Money; Loss, and an entire Rupture *of Credit*, and the like, *and as the Consequence of all*, they hope for a delay in our Preparations, &c. Upon these, with such like Expectations from our Divisions, whether in Parliament, or out of Parliament, I doubt not, they have Encourag'd themselves to struggle with another Year's War, which it was apparent, they were but in an ill Condition to carry on.

What the *Whigs* or *Dissenters* hope for, or how their Hopes and Fears alternately rise, I cannot say, nor shall I enter upon it here; but I shall freely tell you my own Hopes in this present Parliament, and I shall do this so plainly, *tho' I hope without Offence*, that I shall not be reasonably suspected either of Cringing to their Power, or Flattering their Temper.

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I will not say, I am entirely without my Fears, for while Infallibility is not in Man, either Conjunctively, or Separately, it can be no Crime, to have sometimes a little *Pulse* of Hesitation; but in the general, I own I have great Hopes all these four will be Disappointed; I shall take them in Order.

And first for the *High Flyer*——I think they will be Disappointed——First, because I think, that tho' a Parliament were to meet, every way as High Flying as themselves, they could not Act, *as I have been all along noting*, in their Parliamentary Capacity, upon their Principles——to gratify the High Flying Principles in Parliament; they must Vote the Queen out of the Throne, and themselves no Parliament——Can any Thing so absurd be imagin'd of the present Parliament?

I shall freely explain my self; The Principles of our *High Flyers*, if you will take their own Words for it are, to pull down the Fundamental Article of our Liberty, happily own'd in the *London* Clergy's Address, *viz.* Vigorous Withstanding (Resisting) Tyranny and Arbitrary Government, by whatsoever Means (Kings or any Body) it shall Meditate a Return; there goes away the Revolution, and *Legal Provisions* against Popery, *&c.* By Parliamentary Limitation of the Crown, *see the same Address*; in destroying this, you destroy the Union, and in destroying the Union, you destroy the Succession; there goes away the Queen, her Crown and Royal Dignity, all at once——Now can this be the Work of a *British* Parliament? Certainly the People that expect this of a *British* Parliament, must have strange Notions of Things and of Men——And it cannot but be a Service acceptable to the Publick, as well the Queen, as the Parliament, to help these People to undeceive themselves——That the Disappointment they will meet with, may not run them upon other Distractions.

Again, these People in expecting a Parliament of *Britain* should do any Thing Contradictory to the Union of *Britain*, must expect them to declare themselves no Parliament since; *no Union, no British Parliament*, may pass for a Maxim, which no Body can oppose, the latter being the Effect, and the former the Cause.

As to the Expectations of the profess'd Jacobite, especially those that had the Polly, to say, they expected a Call to their Hopes; an Alteration of the Succession, Declarations in Favour of the Pretender, and Votes against the Principles of the Revolution——Really those Things began to look so Absurd, so Contradicted themselves, and the Nature of Things so lay in their Way, that before the House met, the Honester part of the Jacobites began to see the mistake, and began to say all this was a sham; that they were but just where they were before, or rather farther off, and that their Game was not in this Play; now the Houses are met, her Majesty's Speech, the Commons Answer, and the few Steps already taken, all tend to help these Deluded People to despair.

> *From these Premises it appears, that the High Flyers and Jacobites are as much Enemies as they were before, and what I Prophesied of them, will, I make no Question, come to pass in a little Time*, viz. *That you will find them as* Male-content as ever——*By Consequence it can be no Offence either to the* Government, to the Parliament, or to any Honest Men, *to detect and expose the Artifice and Contrivance of these People, who are our profess'd Enemies, and our conceal'd Enemies, and to lay open their Plots against Liberty and the Constitution; and this is the Work of this Paper.*

Now as these two kinds of People are apparently disappointed in their Expectations from this Parliament, so I am in Hopes, the King of *France* shall be Disapointed also——I doubt not every Body will own, that the *French* have promis'd themselves Great Things from our Divisions, and from the Confusions which have happned among us upon the late Changes——They have Encourag'd themselves, *no doubt*, to exert their

their utmoſt Strength, and if it be proper to ſay ſo, *more than their utmoſt*, they have reſolv'd to diſtreſs the whole Body of their People, to carry on the War another Year —— Their Preparations and Reſolutions, have apparently receiv'd Encouragement from the Notions of their Party here, flattering them with the Hopes of mighty Things to happen here, upon the Diſſolution of the Old Parliament, and the Meeting of the New —— And if this Parliament fall in with the early Reſolutions of Supporting the Alliance, carrying on the War, and ſupplying the needful Expences for that End, they muſt come under a Diſappointment, and muſt be ſtill reduc'd to the Mortifying our High Flyers, and Ruining the Jacobite Intereſt in this Nation.

I ſhould enter upon the Diſappointment of our High Church Men, in their Expectations of the Ruin of the *Diſſenters*, repeal of the Tolleration, ſuppreſſing of Academies, and reviving Penal Laws againſt them —— And I am not without Hopes they ſhall be Diſappointed alſo; but of this I ſhall ſpeak in its Order.

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